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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1960

10:15 a.m.

Telephoned Mr. Merchant to ask if he would like to sit in on his meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the house with Secretary Gates on the Polaris question. He said he had some more information on the schedules and thought he should be very clear on it before he went overseas. Mr. Merchant said he would be there and the Secretary asked him to bring Mrs. Merchant with him. The Secretary said one strange thing that was brought out at dinner in talking to De Gaulle was that De Gaulle seemed to think that the number of troops in Berlin was not a matter of very great importance. Mr. Merchant agreed this was unusual. The Secretary said that he had tried to get the Vice President to omit in his speech "defusing Berlin" but hadn't been successful. The Secretary said he thought that Mr. Merchant and he should have a talk with Mr. Dillon with regard to allocating their respective responsibilities. The Secretary said he could conceive of a few problems arising in his absence.



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